WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

CLAIMS

1. A selective information retrieval system disposed at least in part in a computing system and comprising:

first means for receiving an information retrieval request from a first source, said first source being an external search engine connected to said computing system via a network, or from a second source, said second source being an internal search engine disposed within said computing system, said information retrieval request relating to price information;

second means for ascertaining an attribute of a source of said request, said attribute being at least partially independent from said request and relating to an internal or external nature of the search engine from which the search request originates; and

third means for retrieving information in response to said request and said attribute, said third means including means for retrieving a first price in response to a retrieval request from said first source and a second price in response to a retrieval request from said second source.

2. The invention of Claim 1 wherein said first means includes a network interface.

3. The invention of Claim 2 wherein said network interface is a Web interface.

4. The invention of Claim 2 wherein said network interface is an intranet interface.

5. The invention of Claim 1 wherein said second means is a source detector.

6. The invention of Claim 5 wherein said third means includes a database management system.

7. A selective information retrieval system comprising:

first means for receiving a first information retrieval request from a first source;

second means for retrieving a second information retrieval request from a second source; and

third means for retrieving information from a first database from said first source in response to said first request and for retrieving information from a second database from said second source in response to said second request.

8. A selective information retrieval method including the steps of:

receiving an information retrieval request from a first source;

ascertaining an attribute of said source, said attribute being independent from said request; and

retrieving information in response to said request and said attribute.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein said attribute relates to whether said source is internal or external.

10. The method of Claim 8 wherein said attribute relates to the location of a user.

11. The method of Claim 10 wherein said information includes a tax rate for said user at said location.